

## Rumsfeld visits Afghanistan, meets with Karzai

Story and Photo by  
Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai during his fourth trip here in a year and a half.

Rumsfeld met with Karzai and his administration at the President's palace in Kabul after a day of visiting sites in Afghanistan including the Provincial Reconstruction Team site in Gardez.

"He comes with a very good message from Washington – that of continued support to Afghanistan," said Karzai.

The Afghan leader said the two discussed the progress their nations have made in rebuilding the war-ravaged country and also discussed the problems they face during reconstruction.

One issue brought to the forefront by both leaders was the continued battle against terrorists in Afghanistan and around the world.

"We will be working together to fight



*U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addresses reporters with Afghan President Hamid Karzai Sunday in Kabul. Rumsfeld's trip to Kabul was part of his scheduled tour of the Middle East.*

terrorism to the very end," said Karzai. "That is something we're not going to be soft against even for a fraction of a second."

"The efforts to build a moderate democratic government that is representative of all the people in this country, that is op-

posed to terrorism and terrorists is an important effort and certainly the United States supports that effort," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld went on to say that he has

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## Engineers roll through Bagram minefields

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
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**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – The first time Spc. Richard Felix ran over an anti-tank mine he admits he was a little rattled, but for him and his fellow Sappers of Company B, 41<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, driving through a mine field is just a routine day on the job.

Felix is part of a group of construction equipment operators who are breaking new ground within the U.S. Army Engineer Corps

in the field of area mine clearance. They became the first engineer soldiers in the U.S. Army to field the Scottish-made Aardvark mine-clearing vehicle and the second U.S. engineer unit to use the Danish-made Hydrema mine-clearing vehicle for area clearance operations at Bagram Air Base.

Along with fielding the new equipment, the engineers are helping to build on new Army engineer doctrine, which was started by Bagram's previous mine clearing company out of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div., said Co. B Commander Capt. James Handura.

Both types of mine clearing vehicles uti-

lize a system of rapidly spinning chain link flails that violently cut into the grounds surface at varying depths. The heavy flails pulverize the surface layer of ground, destroying any shallowly placed anti-personnel and each strike also exerts tons of pressure below the surface to detonate anti-tank mines that are placed as deep as 35 inches.

With the new machinery the Sappers can locate and destroy mines up to seven times faster than the traditional "boots on the ground" method, said Staff Sgt. Alfred

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Bush addresses nation from the Cabinet Room.*

## Bush to ask billions more for Iraq

**WASHINGTON** – President Bush told Americans in a televised address Sunday night that he will seek an additional \$87 billion to continue the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“This will take time and require sacrifice. Yet we will do whatever is necessary — we will spend whatever is necessary — to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom, and to make our own nation more secure,” Bush said.

A congressional source said Bush’s request is based on assumptions that the cost of military operations in Iraq alone will exceed \$4 billion a month for at least the next year.

Billions more will be used for the reconstruction effort, which the White House at one point said would be largely paid for through the sales of Iraqi oil.

The United States will seek additional international support to rebuild Iraq and will restore self-rule there, Bush said. Iraq is now occupied by a U.S.-led coalition.

Members of the United Nations, he said, “have an opportunity and the responsibility to assume a broader role in assuring that Iraq becomes a free and democratic nation.”

Bush said that over the next two months Secretary of State Colin Powell will meet with representatives of many nations to discuss their financial contributions to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Europe, Japan and states in the Middle East will benefit from the success of freedom in these two countries, and they should contribute to that success,” he said.

Bush also detailed his strategy for the

continuing war in Iraq.

“Our strategy in Iraq has three objectives — destroying terrorists — enlisting the support of other nations for a free Iraq — and helping Iraqis assume responsibility for their own defense and their own future,” he said.



*Former Saddam workers demonstrate Sunday, demanding they be paid back wages since the U.S. occupation of Iraq.*

## U.S. capture Saddam loyalist

**BAGHDAD**, Iraq — U.S. forces have captured a Saddam loyalist suspected of carrying out attacks against coalition troops at a children’s hospital near Baghdad, U.S. Central Command said Sunday.

Acting on a tip from a local source, a unit from the 4th Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducted a raid Saturday in Ba’qubah to capture the person.

He is suspected of conducting a grenade attack at the Ba’qubah Children’s Hospital in August that killed three soldiers, Central Command said. The soldiers detained 10 people and confiscated a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, hand grenades, blasting caps and a detonation cord used to make improvised explosive devices, the statement said.

The detainees were being held for questioning at the Warhorse holding facility in Ba’qubah.

In the Iraqi capital on Saturday, unidentified assailants fired at least one surface-to-air missile at a C-141 U.S. military cargo plane as it took off from Baghdad International Airport, but failed to hit it, coalition provisional authorities said.

Without offering any details, coalition military spokesman Col. George Kirvo said that such incidents have happened “many

times” in the past, and that the cargo plane was “never in any danger.”

The attempted strike occurred hours before U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wrapped up his visit to Iraq, coalition officials said.



*Arafat wants to nominate parliamentary speaker Ahmed Qorei, left, as Palestinian prime minister.*

## Arafat names choice for Abbas successor Sunday

**JERUSALEM** — Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat has formally nominated parliamentary speaker Ahmed Qorei to replace Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian sources told *CNN*.

The top leadership of Arafat’s Fatah faction and the Palestine Liberation Organization backed the move, the sources said.

Abbas, the Palestinian Authority’s first prime minister, was in office for about 100 days and resigned Saturday after a power struggle with Arafat. There was no immediate comment from Qorei.

Qorei was named head of the Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee’s economic department in 1983 and has been a key player in nearly all peace negotiations involving the Palestinians and Israelis since the Madrid Conference in 1991.

He served the Palestinian Authority as minister of economy and trade and minister of industry between 1994 and 1996, when he was elected a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. He was elected speaker shortly afterward.

In Washington, the Bush administration reacted cautiously to the news.

“We are following the events very closely and we remain in close contact with the parties in the region,” a State Department spokeswoman said.



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seen a lot of progress in Afghanistan and is hopeful the economic and physical gains the country has made will continue to build.

The secretary spoke of the expansion of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams and the international interest in them.

Rumsfeld said that countries other than the U.S. becoming involved in provincial reconstruction is a good thing and “we’re encouraged to continue and expand it.”

After meeting with Karzai, Rumsfeld went on to visit the

director of the International Security Assistance Force.

Rumsfeld pointed out that since it was taken over by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, ISAF marked the first NATO activity outside of Europe.

He said that having NATO involved was “important not just for Afghanistan but important for the alliance.”

Rumsfeld’s trip to Afghanistan was a scheduled part of a tour of Department of Defense activities in the Middle East including operations in Iraq.

**MINEFIELDS**, from Page 1

Minton, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Hydrema team, which includes three Hydremas.

In addition to speeding up the area clearing process in Bagram, the new vehicles provide added safety for the engineer operators.

“These things are awesome; they definitely give you an added sense of confidence,” said Felix, Hydrema operator, referring to the armor reinforced cabs and blast shields on the front of the vehicles that protect the operator.

Once the Aardvark or Hydrema’s flails start spinning, the dirt and dust kicks up in enormous plumes of dust and dirt, engulfing the vehicle and drifting in hundred foot columns into the air. During these times, the operators barely even notice most of the mines they hit, a majority of which are smaller anti-personnel mines, according to Aardvark team NCOIC



*The Hydrema, (shown) and Aardvark are two medium flail mine clearing vehicles used on Bagram to clear minefields. The vehicles utilize a system of rapidly spinning chain links flails that cut into the grounds surface at varying depths.*

Sgt. Peter Barkley, who supervises the operation of two Aardvarks.

“I don’t feel a thing,” said Barkley about the mine blasts.

For Spc. Raymond Berger, who operates a Hydrema, the experience is similar.

“The first one kind of caught me off guard,” he said about his first experience destroying a mine, “but then after awhile it just sounds like a big rock hitting up against the blast plate.”

Felix was quick to add, as confident as he feels, he knows the mine clearing vehicles are not indestructible and any careless mistakes could lead to disaster.

“We still have to make sure we’re doing things right,” Felix said, “or it could be the last thing you do.”

Both vehicle teams can cover up to 1,500 meters on a good day, according to Sgt. William Emerson, Co. B operations NCO, but the main problem they run into is keeping the vehicles running in Afghanistan’s austere conditions.

“Maintenance is an every day affair,” said Minton.

The Hydrema team spends an average of three hours a day on maintenance to keep the vehicle running. For the newer Aardvark system maintenance is only about 10 minutes a day, according to Aardvark instructor Dave Clark who has been working with the engineers at Bagram over the last three weeks.

Despite maintenance stops, both engineer teams have had great success with their respective systems, according to Handura. On Friday alone, more than 30 mines were detonated at Bagram.

Bagram is one of the most densely mined areas in the most heavily mined country in the world and completely clearing it of mines will take at least five years, Handura said.

But he said he is just proud that his soldiers are here to help get the whole process moving forward.

“What I tell the soldiers is you’re helping clear so much ground and doing your part to help make things safer not only for the coalition services, but also potentially the local nationals,” said Handura.



*Spc. Richard Felix, Hydrema operator, stands near the chains used on the Hydrema that sweep through and destroy mine fields on Bagram.*

## ANA conducts live-fire exercise in Pol-e-Charki

**POL-E-CHARKI**, Afghanistan – Recently, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kandak (Mechanized), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Central Corps Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers expanded their experience level and knowledge of infantry assault techniques during a platoon live-fire exercise at Pol-e-Charki.

Starting two kilometers from their objective, two BMPs at a time made their way towards a dismount position less than 500 meters from two “enemy” bunkers. The infantry squads rapidly exited their vehicles and approached the bunkers as their BMPs simulated providing covering fire for the maneuvering soldiers.

Then the squads, armed with RPG-7s, AK47s and PKMs, split up into two positions. Once in place, the infantrymen opened fire on the bunkers and began a forward assault to clear the objective.

“Communication went well and we accomplished our objective,” said Sgt. Aslamudin, a communications non-commissioned officer from Takhar province.

“I have been in the ANA for five months and I am very happy with the training. All of our Afghan instructors have been trained by Coalition military specialists,” Aslamudin said. “Our instructors have their own personal experience; but the additional help from qualified foreign teachers has had a significant impact on our training,” he added.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kandak is working through progressive training. Infantrymen first go through an assault course without ammunition before participating in a live-fire exercise.

The next training phase uses BMPs as armored personnel carriers. Then the BMPs will be employed in a live-fire drill scheduled next month.

The final result of this graduated training will be a full-up combined arms exercise with infantry, mechanized, and armored forces all working together as one to accomplish the mission.

*(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Out for Justice.” Brooklyn cop Gino Felino’s partner is gunned down in front of his family by a drug kingpin. Felino sets out to avenge his partner’s death.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Training Day.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered TSTMS H: 86F L: 59F	Partly cloudy H: 88F L: 59F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 93F L: 66F	Dusty H: 93F L: 64F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered TSTMS H: 88F L: 59F	Partly cloudy H: 88F L: 57F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Cleae H: 99F L: 63F	Clear H: 99F L: 62F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Season's greetings: Texans pull stunner against Miami Sunday

**MIAMI**—A humble second-year franchise playing at highly touted Miami, the Houston Texans were the biggest underdogs of the NFL's opening weekend.



*Houston Texans kicker Kris Brown celebrates with tight end Billy Miller (82) after Brown kicked the game-winning kick to beat the Miami Dolphins 21-20 Sunday.*

That made them mad. So did the Dolphins' trash-talking during pregame warmups.

"One of their players said, 'I'll see you after today's practice,'" Houston's Jabar Gaffney said. "That was their thinking — they were looking at us like this was just a little practice."

The Dolphins can only wish the game had been just a practice. Kris Brown kicked his fifth field goal, a 35-yarder, with 25 seconds

left and the Texans stunned Miami 21-20 Sunday.

"Not many people gave us a chance to win, but we're not shocked," Brown said. "We took it as a slap in the face that we were the largest underdogs the opening weekend."

The Week 1 upset was the Texans' second in as many seasons. Last year they became the first expansion team since 1961 to win their opening game by beating the Dallas Cowboys.

Miami, a 14-point favorite, fell to 0-1 for the first time in 12 years.

"I'm stunned. Shocked. Disappointed. Amazed," defensive tackle Larry Chester said. "No one could have told me we were going to lose — not with this team."

## Miami leapfrogs Ohio State in AP poll

**NEW YORK**—Once again, Miami is ahead of Ohio State.

The Hurricanes used a thrilling 23-point comeback against rival Florida to move past the Buckeyes into the No. 2 spot in *The Associated Press* college football poll released Sunday.

Ohio State trailed Miami in the poll all last season until beating the Hurricanes for the national title in the Fiesta Bowl. The Buckeyes fell a spot after narrowly escaping with a 16-13 win over 32-point underdog San Diego State. Ohio State lost 17 first-place votes in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Oklahoma strengthened its grip on the top spot following a 20-13 win at Alabama, garnering 47 of the 63 firsts and 1,549 points.

Miami received two first-place votes and was second with 1,448

points. Ohio State, which has a nation-long 16-game winning streak, got eight firsts.



*Brock Berlin pulled off an amazing comeback Saturday and got his 'Canes up to No. 2.*

Southern California and Michigan rounded out the Top Five, with the Trojans getting four firsts and the Wolverines two.

Texas, Kansas State, Georgia, Virginia Tech and Florida State round out the Top 10. The Seminoles flip-flopped with Pittsburgh, which is now 11th.

The Coaches poll had the same top four as the *AP* poll. Texas was fifth in the coaches poll.

Three teams dropped out of the poll following a day on which four ranked teams lost to unranked opponents. Auburn, which began the year No. 6, dropped out after its second straight loss to open the season, 17-3 to Georgia Tech. The Tigers, who were 17th, haven't scored a touchdown this season.

Purdue fell from 16th to out of the poll following a 27-26 loss to Bowling Green, and Virginia dropped from 15th after a 31-7 loss to South Carolina. The Cavaliers were playing without quarterback Matt Schaub, who is sidelined with a separated right shoulder.

## Roddick beats Ferrero in straight sets to win U.S. Open Sunday

**NEW YORK**—Three points from his first Grand Slam title, Andy Roddick stepped to the baseline, crouched, sprang up like a jack-in-the-box and smacked the ball.

The result: ace. Next point: ace. Again: ace.

It was a fitting end to an awesome serving display. And there couldn't have been a more fitting successor to Pete Sampras as U.S. Open champion.

With 23 aces, strong baseline play and a veteran's composure, Roddick beat Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 Sunday in a breakthrough victory that could be followed by a series of major triumphs.

"I can't imagine my name and 'U.S. Open champion' together. It's more than I could ever dream of," Roddick said. "I came to this tournament so many times as a little kid and watched from way up there."

After Roddick's final too-fast-to-see serve — his 123rd ace of the tournament — he curled into a ball, covering his eyes as they welled with tears. Then he waded through the courtside photographers' pit and climbed into the stands for a frenzied series of hugs with his singer-actress girlfriend, Mandy Moore, his parents, his brothers and a couple of friends who drove 10 hours to cheer on their buddy.

It was an uplifting end to a rain-soaked Open with scheduling problems that forced Ferrero to play four matches in four days, the first time in the 35-year Open era that's happened at a major.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Rumsfeld hopes for expansion of Afghan peacekeeping operations

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Sunday he was hopeful NATO might expand peacekeeping operations outside the Afghan capital, but that security was primarily the responsibility of Afghans.

Rumsfeld spoke during a brief visit to Afghanistan that coincided with an increase in violent attacks by the ousted Taliban militia, and shortly after one of the biggest battles with the Taliban for at least 18 months.

Scores of residents demonstrated in Kabul on Sunday against the presence of U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan and some, unhappy with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's failure to bring security to many parts of the country, called for the return of the Taliban. The Afghan government, the United Nations and aid agencies have long appealed for peacekeepers to be deployed outside Kabul, and hopes this might happen have risen since NATO took command of the International Security Assistance Force in August.

"I certainly agree that an expansion of ISAF would be a good thing," Rumsfeld said in response to a question at a joint news conference with Karzai.

"For whatever reason, there have not been countries lining up to expand ISAF, but it strikes me that... there is at least the possibility of somewhat of an expansion."

"But in the last analysis, the security in Afghanistan is the responsibility of the Afghan people," Rumsfeld said.

About 12,500 U.S. and allied forces are searching Afghanistan for remnants of the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies. Another 5,000 peacekeeping troops are stationed in Kabul under NATO command.

On his last visit to Afghanistan in May, Rumsfeld said the United States had moved from a period of major combat operations to one of stabilization and reconstruction.

Since then, however, the Taliban have staged almost daily attacks against government posts, aid workers and U.S.-led forces. Large parts of the south and the east of the country are off limits to foreign aid workers.

Rumsfeld insisted security had improved each time he visited the country.

He made no mention of Washington's plans to increase aid to Afghanistan, which President George Bush is expected to announce soon. The Bush administration said in July it was preparing a \$1 billion aid package for schools, roads and other projects.

The United States provides \$900 million a month for American military operations in Afghanistan and \$900 million a year for economic assistance and training the Afghan national army.

Hours before Rumsfeld arrived, the Afghan government said it had foiled a Taliban attack overnight on the Zeelok district headquarters in southeastern Paktika province near the Pakistani

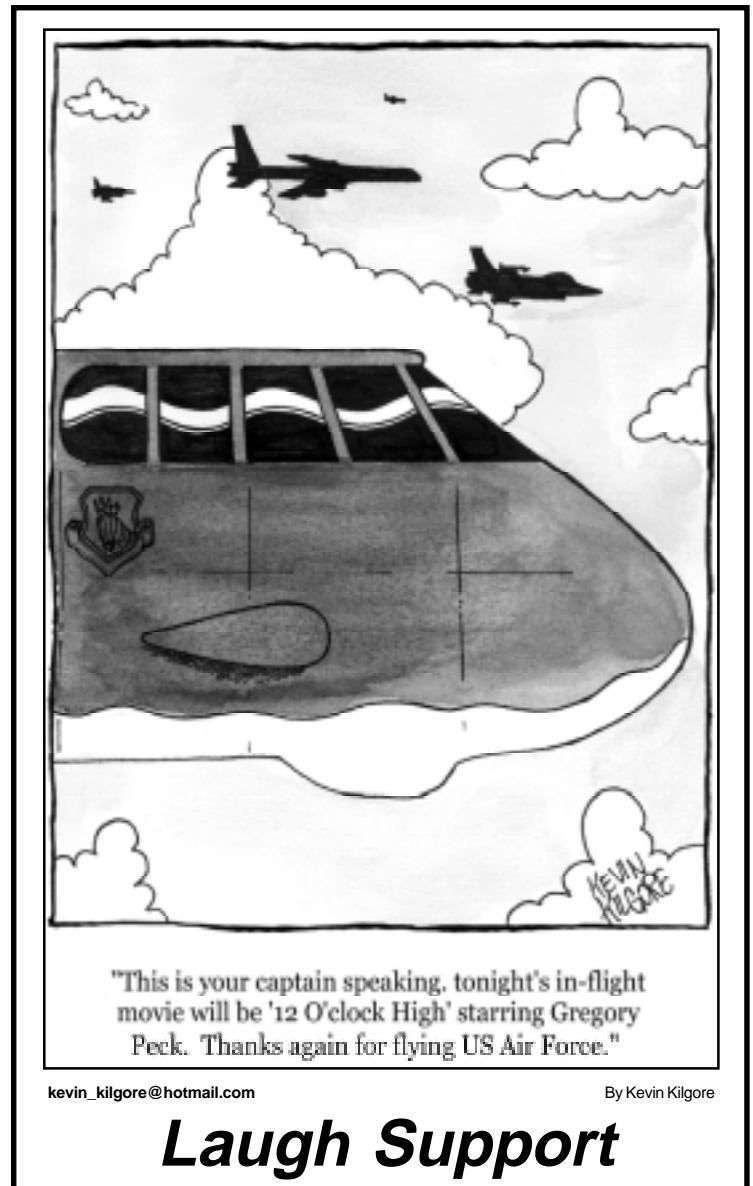
border. It was the latest in a series of attacks that have claimed hundreds of lives in the last month alone.

U.S. special forces and Afghan troops have been fighting up to 1,000 Taliban fighters and supporters in the troubled province of Zabul for the last two weeks.

U.S. military spokesman Colonel Rodney Davis said that between 10 and 26 "enemy fighters" were believed killed in clashes overnight in the Dai Chopan district of Zabul that involved air support.

He said up to 124 enemy fighters had now been killed since "Operation Mountain Viper" began in Zabul last month.

Officials and aid workers worry that Afghans, already wary of the influence Washington wields in their country, will start to resent the presence of the U.S. military in the absence of tangible improvements in the country's war-shattered economy.



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support